

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CU-04 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /153 W
----- 095392

R 171750 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1307

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 177

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NS

SUBJECT: STRIKE SITUATION

REF: PARAMARIBO 167

SUMMARY: UNIONS DECLARE STRIKE SUSPENDED BUT ORDER SLOWDOWN.
GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES 20 MILLION GUILDER SOCIAL WAGE PACKAGE.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE CONFEDERATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS (CLO) OFFICIALLY
SUSPENDED THE STRIKE YESTERDAY, APRIL 16, CALLING ON ITS MEM-
BERS TO REPORT FOR WORK BUT TO GO SLOW. LAST MINUTE MEDIATION
ATTEMPTS BY VHP STROCGMAN J. LACHMAN WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. ALL
ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS, RELIGIOUS AND GOVERNMENT,
ARE FULLY STAFFED AND ATTENDED TODAY, THOUGH LITTLE TEACHING
IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER TWO WEEK EASTER VACATION,
BEGINNING APRIL 19. SECONDARY AND TEACHERS' SCHOOLS BEGAN
EASTER VACATION YESTERDAY. CUSTOMS WORKERS ENGAGED IN
FAMILIAR SLOWDOWN MOVE OF UNCECTAIN DURATION.
 2. GOS ANNOUNCED EXTENSIVE SOCIAL/ WAGE PACKAGE WITHOUT REFERENCE
TO UNION DEMANDS. GOVERNMENT SALARIES ARE INCREASED PROGRESS-
IVELY, RANGING FROM 20 PERCENT FOR LOWEST PAID TO 1.5 PERCENT
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FOR HIGHEST PAID WORKERS. GOVERNMENT CHILDREN' S ALLOWANCES, PREVIOUSLY ONLY FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE, ARE NOW EXTENDED TO THE WHOLE POPULATION. A MONTHLY PENSION, ALSO NEW FOR THE ENTIRE POPULATION, IS TO BE PAID TO THOSE SEVENTY YEARS AND OLDER. TWENTY MILLION GUILDER COST OF NEW PACKAGE WILL BE ADDED TO ALREADY EXISTING 34 MILLION GUILDER DEFICIT IN 175 MILLION GUILDER BUDGET.

COMMENT: UNIONS FAILED TO CAUSE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE 76 DAY STRIKE, BUT WERE SUCCESSFUL IN DEMONSTRATING THAT AN ANTI- GOVERNMENT COALITION OF THE UN-EMPLOYED, THE POORLY- PAID, AND THE TEACHERS CAN BE MAINTAINED.

THOUGH IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THIS UNSTABLE COALITION CAN BE STRENGTHENED FROM THE NP RANKS SUFFICIENTLY TO GAIN A PLURALITY IN THE FALL ELECTIONS, IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE TOVERNINO

VHP- PNP COALITIGN REACTED WITH SUCH A LARGE AND EXPENSIVE SOCIAL WAGE PACKAGE. MUELLER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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